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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY Poland
SUBJECT Port Information: GdyniaPLACE ACQUIRED
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loading half the cargo at point (A) [redacted] the vessel moved to point (B). This move was made necessary by reason of the fact that cranes on the pier at point (B) are not high enough to reach over the side of a Liberty ship when the vessel is empty. At point (B) there are 12 cranes, six on each side. These cranes move on rails and can be taken completely off the pier via the connecting harbor rail network. Gdynia harbor was [redacted] very busy. There were about 20 merchant ships at piers and waiting for berths while [redacted] Only one of these ships, the LONDON of the UK, out of Liverpool, could be remembered by name. However, [redacted] that [redacted] Danish, UK, Italian, Norwegian and German flag vessels in the harbor. A new Polish passenger ship was [redacted] berthed at point (C).

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- In addition to the merchant ships, there were three destroyers believed to be Soviet and six or seven patrol boats of various sizes, all tied up at the shipyards, point (D) [redacted] The destroyers had four guns forward in two enclosed mounts and two guns aft in one enclosed mount, and an unknown number of antiaircraft and machine guns on the port and starboard sides. The destroyers had one funnel, not raked, and a large mast forward and a smaller one aft. The forward mast was equipped with a radar antenna. The patrol craft did not appear to have radar and each had one gun forward. All of the naval vessels were painted grey.
 - [redacted] the entrance to Gdynia harbor is still mined, as shown on the old charts and that the Polish pilot was especially careful in bringing the ship in. The mine fields are marked and the channel through the fields can be followed without a chart. A number of wrecks were still in the harbor during this

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The approximate locations of four such wrecks are shown on [redacted] While [redacted] believed that [redacted] wrecks were present, [redacted]

5. Shore leave without difficulty was permitted [redacted] Each man desiring to go ashore was given a white pass. Half of this was taken from him by the guard upon leaving the vessel, and upon return to the ship the other half was taken by the guard. Three guards with machine guns were around each vessel at the pier and a harbor patrol craft was always on station.
6. Ashore Polish people were friendly. They seemed hungry and willing to trade anything for food or clothing, with fruit being an especially desired item. Any kind of foreign currency can be exchanged in the town. While the stores are open to foreign seamen, prices were very high and there was little to buy. Soviet nationals are in charge of everything including schools, hospitals and the police. "At the top, there is always a Russian," [redacted]
7. Public transportation in Gdynia consists of old and badly worn busses, US GMC trucks and US, French and Italian automobiles. [redacted] not observe any cars or trucks of Soviet manufacture. The railroad marshalling yard is in good repair and very busy. While many locomotives and freight cars were seen in Gdynia, no passenger trains were seen [redacted]
8. There are plenty of "girls" on the streets [redacted] One can do business with these persons for a cigarette or any kind of food or clothing. In addition, there are six houses in the approximate location marked (E) where anyone can go to dance and drink. The women in these houses are all available. In Gdynia, there are both Soviet soldiers and sailors, and these individuals were reported to frequent the same houses and appear to have no special regulations which they must follow.
9. While in Gdynia [redacted] met a girl [redacted] who works at the hospital, point (F). [redacted] stealing. This girl conducted [redacted] through the hospital. On this tour the hospital appeared to be very crowded and a high percentage of the patients were suffering from tuberculosis and venereal disease. The girl told [redacted] that there was a great shortage of drugs with which to treat such diseases and that it was the practice to administer cocaine or morphine, of which the hospital had an ample supply, to relieve the suffering of the patients. She said that when he ever returned to Gdynia, if he could bring penicillin and streptomycin she would trade him "snow" for these two drugs. The girl claimed to have access to an almost unlimited amount of cocaine. As proof, she showed [redacted] a large five gallon jug almost full of what she said was cocaine and over which she had custody.
10. No naval vessels of any kind nor aircraft were observed during either the approach or departure through the Baltic area.

[redacted] Available on loan from the CIA Library is [redacted] Gdynia Port and Roadstead referred to in the foregoing report.

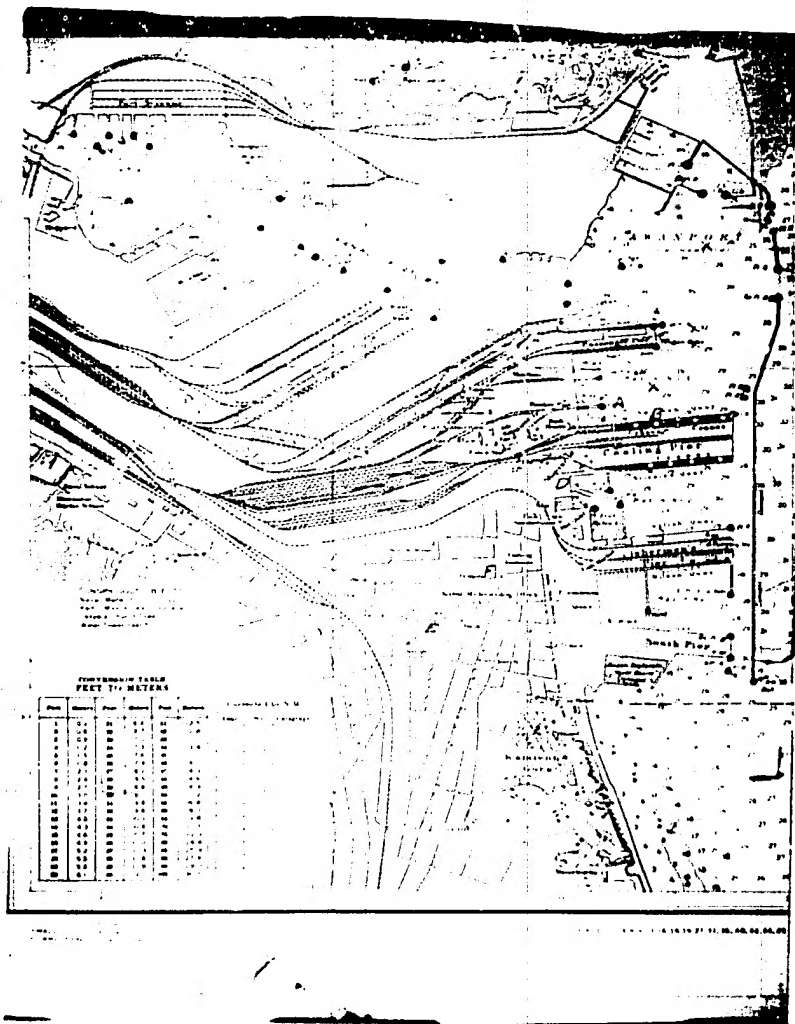
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